Name:

Date:

Class:

**Dramatic Scene**

**Draft #1 Checklist**

**Directions:** Use the checklist below as a guide for your first draft of your dramatic scene. Go through the checklist to make sure you are following the major criteria for the scene.

* You begin your scene with **descriptive stage directions** that tell us:
  + *What is on the stage (what does the stage look like, including the mood on the stage);*
  + *Who is on the stage;*
  + *What the people on stage are doing when the curtains rise.*
* Your scene builds the tension slowly -- you do not jump right into the major action or conflict
* Your scene includes *stage directions* throughout, so we know the specific actions of the characters on stage, the characters’ tones of voice speaking, and any other non-spoken behaviors the characters should exhibit (gestures, facial expressions, etc.).
* The scene should *move the story forward* -- something should happen in the scene that complicates the conflict or helps resolve it.
* The scene should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
* The stakes should be high in the story (think about *ARITS* -- Ruth finds out she is pregnant at a time when the family is at its most chaotic and desperate).
* Your grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are accurate.
* You formatted the scene correctly, including:
  + Skipping lines between each person’s dialogue;
  + Stage directions unrelated to dialogue are written on a line by themselves;
  + Stage directions are written in parentheses and (if you want) *italics.*